

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 17, line 17, with the following rewritten paragraph:

The primers and probes (Eurogentec) used are reported below.

N-Myc primer	5'	TGATGAAGAG GAAGATGAAC AGG <u>(SEQ ID NO: 1)</u>
N-Myc primer	3'	TCTTGGGACG CACAGTGATG <u>(SEQ ID NO: 2)</u>
N-Myc probe		Fam-ACTGTGGAGA AGCGGCGTTC CTCCT-Tamra <u>(SEQ ID NO: 3)</u>
Twist primer	5'	GGACAAGCTG AGCAAGATTC AGA <u>(SEQ ID NO: 4)</u>
Twist primer	3'	TCTGGAGGAC CTGGTAGAGG AA <u>(SEQ ID NO: 5)</u>
Twist probe		Fam-AGCTGGCGGC CAGGTACATC GA-Tamra <u>(SEQ ID NO: 6)</u>
ODC primer	5'	CTGTCGTCTC AGTGTGAAAT TCG <u>(SEQ ID NO: 7)</u>
ODC primer	3'	CGCCCGTTCC AAAAGGA <u>(SEQ ID NO: 8)</u>

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 21, line 19, with the following rewritten paragraph:

For this, two double-stranded interfering RNA oligonucleotides (iRNAs) targeting the 5' or 3' region of the mRNA of the twist gene were synthesized. The sequences of the target regions recognized by these iRNAs are, respectively: AACAGCGAGGAAGAGCCAGAC (SEQ ID NO: 9) for the twist 5' iRNA, i.e. bases 51 to 72 following the translation initiation codon; AAGATGGCAAGCTGCAGCGCTATGT (SEQ ID NO: 10) for the twist 3' iRNA, i.e. bases -97 to -76 preceding the translation stop codon. The "scramble", or random, iRNA of sequence AAGCGCGCTTTGTAGGATTCG (SEQ ID NO: 11), was chosen so as not to hybridize any known sequence of the human genome.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 23, line 4, with the following

rewritten paragraph:

Thus, the inventors were able to show that the inactivation of twist expression in cell lines derived from breast cancer and from melanomas made it possible to restore the ability of these cells to die by apoptosis. This inactivation was carried out experimentally by means of RNA interference, or RNAi, a sequence-specific post-transcriptional gene quenching phenomenon, using the double-stranded interfering RNA oligonucleotides (iRNAs) described in Example 4 on neuroblastoma-derived cell lines: sequence

AACAGCGAGGAAGAGCCAGAC (SEQ ID NO: 9) for the twist 5' iRNA; sequence AAGATGGCAAGCTGCAGCGCTATGT (SEQ ID NO: 10) for the twist 3' iRNA, and, as a control, the "scramble", or random, iRNA sequence AAGCGCGCTTTGTAGGATTTCG (SEQ ID NO: 11).